In order to reduce the gap in production and demand envisaged at the end of IXth Plan period, under the directives of the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI), in July, 1997, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Member-Secretary, Planning Commission, with Secretary (Coal), Secretary (Power) and Chairman, Railway Board as its Members, to consider, among other things, measures for removal of bottlenecks and accelerating the progress of implementation of on-going coal projects to reduce the above gap in production and demand. Arising out of the recommendations of the Committee, the Ministry of Coal carried out a project-by-project exercise to explore the possibilities for incremental coal production during the Ninth Plan period. The Ministry concluded that an incremental production of 11 million tonnes of coal from CIL sources is possible during the Ninth Plan over and above the Ninth Plan target of 303 million tonnes if additional resources were made available to CIL and acquisition of forest land involved in some projects is expedited.

Twenty captive mining blocks have been allotted to private parties/public sector undertakings for power generation. As per the assessment of the Working Group, these blocks are expected to produce about 13 million tonnes of coal by 2001–02. Subject to materialisation of the demand mentioned above, the gap between the demand for power sector and availability of coal for the power sector from CIL/ SCCL will be bridged by coal production from captive mining blocks/import.

*[English]*

**Printing Order of Currency Notes**

509. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Reserve Bank of India's printing order of 160 crores of 500/- Rupee notes run into rough whether;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to cover up the shortage of currency notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The following steps have been taken to cover up the shortage of currency notes:

(1) Coinisation of lower denomination notes of Rupee 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 and diversion of the capacity so released for printing notes of higher denominations.

(2) Modernisation of the two note printing presses at Nashik and Dewas.

(3) Setting up of two new note-printing presses under RBI, i.e. one at Mysore (Karnataka) and other in Salboni (West Bengal) with an annual capacity of 4950 million pieces each.

(4) Import of 3,600 million pieces of printed notes from abroad, as a one time measure.

**Pollution in Colliery Areas**

510. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV :
SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the report appearing in the "Times of India" dated July 21, 1997 regarding suffering of thousands of people living in the Ib Valley open cast coalfields in Orissa from various diseases due to pollution in the colliery area; and

(b) if so, the remedial measures have been taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The employees of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) working in Ib Valley are also staying in the same coalfield where other non-employees are staying. M.C.L. does not carry medical examination of people other than its own employees nor do MCL have any record of their medical examination. Health check-up of 3658 employees of MCL living in Ib Valley has revealed that not even a single case of pneumoconiosis has been detected and confirmed. However two suspected cases are yet to be confirmed by Pneumoconiosis Board. Two T.B. cases have been detected. It may be noted that diseases such as T.B. & other respiratory problems are not related to coal dust.

(b) Measures for control of coal dust taken by MCL include control of dust at generation point itself by adopting wet drilling, using dust extractors, doing controlled blasting, dust suppression by automatic water sprinklers both fixed point as well as mobile. Black topping of roads, raising of green belts, use of dust suppressing chemical and regenerative air vaccum cleaner is under active consideration of the management. Regular monitoring of air, water, noise and soil is being done through Central Mine Research Institute at Dhanbad.

**Import Curbs on Foreign Farm Goods**

511. SHRI SYDAIAH KOTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state: